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No. 21

Pest Alert

FOREST SERVICE—U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
IN COOPERATION WITH YOUR STATE AGENCY

Protection Report R8-PR 21 October 1991

Black Gum Mortality

A large number of black gum trees (*Nyssa Sylvatica*) have been found dying in North Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and Georgia. The observed trees have been in the mountains of these States. The trees are often associated with dogwood trees infected with *Discula* sp., which causes dogwood anthracnose. The symptoms on black gums include leaf spots, leaf blotches, leaves dying and hanging on the trees, branch cankers, shoot dieback, and tree death. The affected trees are usually in the shade. A number of fungi have been isolated from the trees, but the causal organism is unknown.

Figure 1. — Leaf spots.

If you notice any unusual damage on black gum please contact: USDA Forest Service
Rt. 3, Box 1249A
Asheville, NC 28806

or

Your State Forester

Figure 2. — Dead leaf and branch infection.

Figure 3. — Branch canker.